



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Contact: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn
202-225-2492

Sensenbrenner / Hostettler Statement on ICE Arrests of IFCO Hiring Illegal Workers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) and House Judiciary Immigration, Border Security, and Claims Subcommittee Chairman John N. Hostettler (R-Ind.) issued the following statement regarding the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) announcement yesterday that they have arrested seven current and former managers of the IFCO Company for conspiring to transport, harbor, and encourage and induce illegal immigrants to reside in the U.S. and hiring 1,187 illegal workers for commercial gain:

“This announcement by ICE is a welcome change of course and one we have been urging for years. For too long, there has been little enforcement of our laws prohibiting the hiring of illegal workers; we are hopeful this action marks the beginning of an effort to enforce these laws.

“The vast majority of illegal immigrants work for employers who do not know that they are here illegally. Instead, these employers have been duped by counterfeit documents provided by an illegal immigrant. Thus, in addition to the use of criminal sanctions against the bad apple employers who knowingly hire illegal workers, it is critical that ICE begin to aggressively visit worksites and identify and remove illegal workers.

“The lure of a job in the U.S. plays an integral role in enticing people to enter the U.S. illegally. Removing this ‘job magnet’ is the most important aspect of the House’s border security and immigration reform legislation, and must be a part of any final legislation if the effort to prevent illegal immigration is to be successful.

“Yesterday’s announcement demonstrates that ICE has significant tools at its disposal to enforce the current laws prohibiting the hiring of illegal workers if it makes this enforcement a priority. Nevertheless, we are ready to work with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff, ICE Assistant Secretary Myers, and others on any further legislation needed in this effort.”

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